



# Ontelaunee Township

35 Ontelaunee Drive, Reading, PA 19605



Fall/Winter 2023

## Township information Board of Supervisors

**Chairman**  
Josh Steingraber

**Vice Chairman**  
Gary Hadden

**Supervisor**  
Rudy Schmehl

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Kim Y. Berger - Ext. 200  
ontelauneetownship@comcast.net

**Water/Sewer Department**  
Email: otws@comcast.net

**Tax Collector**  
Sharon Sweigert-610-926-4240 ext. 204  
Email: ontelauneetc@comcast.net

**Office number:**  
610-926-4240

**Fax number:**  
610-926-5476

**Address:**  
35 Ontelaunee Drive,  
Reading, PA 19605

**Email :**  
ontelauneetownship@comcast.net

**Website:**  
www.ontelauneetwp.net

**Office Hours:**  
Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Meeting Schedules

*all meetings are open to the public  
and held at the township building*

**Board of Supervisors**  
1st Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

**Planning Commission**  
3rd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

**IMPORTANT  
REMINDER**

## PROPERTY AND SCHOOL TAXES

Taxes may only be paid by check or money order. You may not pay taxes on XpressBill pay where you pay your water/sewer bills.

**Tax Collector regular hours are Tuesdays ONLY  
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment.**



## FALL FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING will be taking

place October 2nd through

October 6th from approximately  
7:30 am – 3:00 pm. As a result,

you may experience cloudy or discolored water. If this occurs, please run the water for a few minutes until it clears. The water is safe for all uses and consumption.

## WATER & SEWER INFO

**PAY YOUR WATER AND SEWER BILLS ONLINE THROUGH  
WWW.XPRESSBILLPAY.COM**

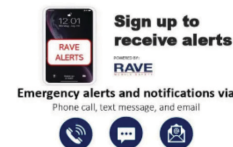
**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ISSUES SETTING UP YOUR  
ONLINE ACCOUNT, PLEASE CALL XPRESS BILL PAY AND SPEAK  
WITH A CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE. (800) 766-2350**



## **SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS STATEMENTS WITH XPRESS BILL PAY**

There is a convenient way to get your statements in your email, never have to worry about the postal service or your bill getting lost in the mail. You can also pay online, schedule automatic payments and view your account. For added convenience the township mailbox / afterhours drop box is conveniently located in front of the Township building. You may drop payments off at any time, just be sure they are received on or before the due date of the 1st of each month.

In the event of an emergency, we utilize Rave call out service to inform our residents of any incidents which would affect our sewer or water customers. If you have not signed up for notifications, please send us an email with your name, telephone number, and property address. Submit your info to: [ontelaunetownship@comcast.net](mailto:ontelaunetownship@comcast.net)



## FLUSHABLE WIPES ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE FLUSHED

Not all moist toilet wipes are flushable. Always check the packaging to make sure they can be flushed down the toilet. Be sure they're 100% plastic-free and only made with plant-based fibers. Any amount of plastic in a wet wipe can cause clogs in sewage systems.

Designated Trick or  
Treat night  
October 31, 2023  
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.



If you would like trick and treaters to stop at your home, please leave your porch light on.

## Recycling information

Ontelaunee Township offers free Single Stream Recycling to our residents. Single Stream Recycling allows participants to place their recyclables in one container without sorting or separate bins.



The single stream dumpster is located at the Township Building. Residents are welcome to drop their recyclables from dawn to dusk seven days a week. The area is monitored by security cameras. The Township does not provide pick-up or recycling containers.

### Acceptable:

Aluminum cans, glass food & beverage containers (brown, green & clear), plastics (#1 thru #7), paper and cardboard. - In order to use all the space in the dumpster please smash or crush your plastic and cardboard.

### Not Acceptable:

Pots, pans, aluminum foil, ceramic oven-ware, drinking glasses, window glass, mirror glass, light bulbs, Styrofoam, clay pots, plastic bags, foil type paper, paper towels, tissue paper.

# 2023 Household Hazardous Waste

Free to Berks County Residents

October 21, 2023

**Berks County Ag Center  
1238 County Welfare Rd.  
Leesport, Pa. 19533**

All residents must pre-register to participate in our hazardous waste collection event

[Absolutely no Latex Paint will be accepted](#)

Put all empty containers in your regular trash collection

[Leaves, brush and limb recycling](#) Berks Soil and Stone, 1 Bellemen's Church Road, Leesport, 610-916-8301

## ONTELAUNEE TOWNSHIP SHREDDING EVENT

OCTOBER 21, 2023

Ontelaunee Township Municipal Building

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

For additional information: 610-926-4240 EXT. 200/[ontelauneetowship@comcast.net](mailto:ontelauneetowship@comcast.net)

Residents of Ontelaunee Township are encouraged to bring personal and confidential documents to our shredding event. No need to remove binder covers or staples.

**Individuals only please. No businesses will be accepted.**

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States according to the FBI. Approximately 7 million Americans become victims of identity theft each year. Have your personal and confidential documents shredded and recycled.

Help protect yourself and your family from identity theft by having your personal and confidential information shredded, such as:

- o Obsolete tax documents
- o Bank statements / canceled checks
- o Credit card statements and receipts
- o Credit card offers
- o Financial account statements
- o Insurance documents
- o All sensitive information: Birthdates, social security numbers, signatures, passwords and Pins
- o Legal documents
- o Credit reports and histories

**o Any document you want safely destroyed!**

# WINTER WEATHER COMING SOON

Before you know it the first snowflakes will be falling. You need to be prepared for any type of winter weather, snow, sleet, freezing rain, etc. The road crews whether it be a Pa Dot driver or a township driver, they all need your patience and assistance during any snow or ice event.

Please remove the vehicles from the street to give the driver ample room to maneuver the plow. If possible wait until the road has been plowed before clearing your driveway. There is no way to prevent snow from being pushed into driveways; however, shoveling snow to the right side of the driveway will minimize the amount of snow pushed back into the driveway by the plow. Please do not put any snow back onto plowed roadways.

All major thoroughfares will be done first. After the initial pass, the plow will return to widen the path.

## SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

**Calais Drive (entire length)**

**Verdun Drive (entire length)**

**Edinboro Lane (entire length)**

**Indian Manor Drive from Bellemans Church Road to Gernants Church Road**

**Gernants Church Road from Indian Manor Drive to Loose Lane**

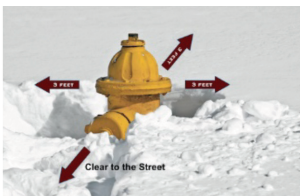
**Hannibal Lane**

**Nantucket Drive (entire length)**

**Adams Road (entire length)**

**Ida Red Drive from its intersection with Fuji Drive, located in the Harvest Subdivision, and continuing through the McIntosh Farms II Subdivision to the end of the curbed portion of Ida Red Road being located at the eastern end of the McIntosh Farms II Subdivision.**

**Sunglo Drive (entire length)**



The township supervisors are asking all residents with a fire hydrant in front of or on their property to **adopt the hydrant** during the winter months. Please shovel any snow that may accumulate around the hydrant. In a fire situation, seconds count and if the firefighters cannot find the hydrant or have to dig it out the lost time could result in catastrophic damage to your or your neighbor's home.

Prevent street flooding by clearing catch basins near your home to allow rain and melting snow to enter the drainage system.

All snow plows are angled the same way (to the driver's right) and will automatically push the snow that direction. It is impossible for the equipment operators to avoid pushing snow into cleared driveways and sidewalks. If you must clear your driveway prior to the completion of snow plowing, please keep in mind that the snow that is in front of the plow will unload wherever there is a cleared area. This is why snow is left in a cleared driveway as the street is plowed. Clearing an area on the side of the driveway from which the plow approaches will provide an area for the snow to unload before it reaches your driveway. This area needs to be at least five feet long and two to three feet wide.



**It is unlawful to shovel, plow or snowblow any snow into the street or roadway.**

Any property owner/tenant of every property fronting any street in the township is asked to remove from the sidewalks all snow or ice that has fallen within 24 hours after any snow event. Please have a path of 36 inches wide cleared.

Mailbox damage- the township is not responsible for any mailboxes that are located within the right of way, that are hit by snow, ice or snowplows.



## Northern Berks Regional Police Department

*Serving the residents of Maiden creek Township, Ontelaunee Township, and Leesport Borough*

Hello friends and neighbors,

As we approach another autumn, there are a few things that we feel important to bring to your attention. If you need to make a report or to see a Police Officer, please call the non-emergency Dispatch number at (610)655-4911. Calling the office directly is like calling the hospital because you need an ambulance. While our Officers do work out of our office, they are usually out patrolling the streets. Obviously if it's an emergency, call 911 right away.

Thefts from vehicles have declined, so it is apparent that people have followed our advice and stopped leaving valuables in their cars.

We are excited to be replacing two old patrol vehicles with new vehicles, and they should be on the street as you read this. We're also hiring two new Officers, and promoting two Officers which will further help our Police Department become more effective.

As school once again starts, please watch for students and school buses before and after class.

We routinely get complaints about speeders in the various developments. Please know your complaints are being heard, and it's frustrating for us as well. Often our Officers will be assigned to an area to monitor traffic, but will be called away for another important call. We cannot have an Officer dedicated to speed timing in every development for an entire shift.

Watch our FaceBook page for more news as it happens, including an NBRPD Trunk-or-Treat event closer to Halloween.

Stay Safe and have a great fall!

### **Contact Information**

Northern Berks Regional Police Dept  
37 Ontelaunee Drive  
Reading, PA 19605  
Office: (610)926-2999  
Fax: (610)926-0309

Records office hours between  
8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

## **Building/Zoning/Code Enforcement**

**Zoning Officer Township Office hours**

**Mondays and Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**\*\*unless the building is closed due to a holiday.**

Our Building Inspector/Code Enforcement is handled by Kraft Municipal Group, office number is 610-777-1311

Please visit their website at [www.kraftmunicipalgroup.com](http://www.kraftmunicipalgroup.com) to obtain permit applications.

Please submit your completed application along with a plot plan, and the application fee of \$50 for residential applications and \$150 for commercial applications to the township office. The application fee will be deducted from the permit fee.

# STORMWATER NEWS



You may have noticed these markers on the storm drains. The Public Works crew placed storm drain medallions on the storm drains to help raise the community's awareness of pollution and reduce illicit discharge into drains. Pollution results from everyday activities and those pollutants are often swept directly into storm drains and waterways with stormwater runoff. Some examples include fertilizers, motor oil, litter and animal waste.

## Winter Time Pollution Prevention

Water pollution and conservation are important issues during the spring and summer months; however, there are many things that we can do during the winter months that will help reduce water pollution and help conserve water. Below are several tips on how to make a difference this winter:

### Too Much Salt

When the snow and ice melt after a winter storm, the water flow will take with it anything that it collects on the ground and wash it down storm drains. This means that melting ice will carry the deicer materials that we use to clear our driveways and walkways down storm drains and into local waterways. The chlorides that make up the deicers can harm aquatic wildlife, affect nearby plant growth in your yard, and can remain trapped in your soils. Luckily there are alternatives to conventional rock salt deicers that are easy to purchase and will also help in keeping our pathways safe! Here are some helpful tips that will keep your pavements clear and local streams cleaner!

- ❖ Removing freshly fallen snow before it has a chance to freeze and harden into ice is one of the more effective ways of keeping your pavements clear. Deicers work better when there is only a thin layer of ice or snow.
- ❖ If you are using traditional rock salt, the recommended application is a **handful for one square yard**. Using more salt than this will not make the ice melt faster; it will only end up costing you more money and the salt will be washed away by the stormwater.
- ❖ Pay attention to the type of deicer material your applying so that you reduce the risk of damaging your sidewalk and driveway.
- ❖ Mixing sand in with the deicer will also aid in melting the snow and ice and allow you to cut back on the amount of rock salt that is being used. Sand and regular brand kitty litter will also add traction to the surface as well **But remember, if there is left over sand and kitty litter on your walkway or driveway, then use a broom to clean it up**



## UNION FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 OF LEESPORT

18 East Wall St. • P.O. Box 777 • Leesport, PA 19533  
Non-Emergency: 610-926-4090  
Emergency: 911



**Drill nights – every Tuesday evening at the fire station**

The Fire Company is always looking for volunteers. Stop by any Tuesday night to see what it is all about.

**Upcoming events: Oct 10 - Open House at Engine House  
December -Live Music at the Social Hall**

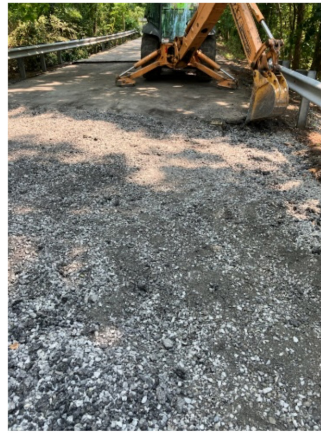
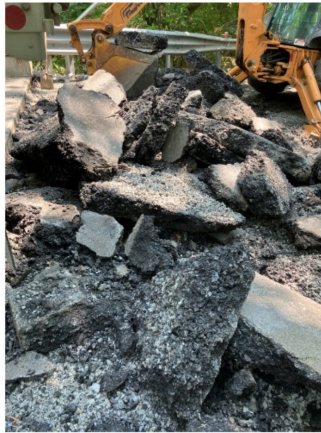


Meat Tray and Money Bingo is held every Thursday Night at our social hall above our social quarters. Doors open at: 5:00 pm. Bingo starts at: 6:30 pm. Come out and win some great meat trays and cold hard cash! We have a full kitchen that serves food and beverages as well as desserts.

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



The Township had ordered a 2023 John Deere backhoe and the delivery date was slated for February 2024. We were very surprised and excited when the dealership called and informed the crew that the backhoe was ready. The backhoe was delivered and the next day was in service to assist in many facets of work around the township.



More completed projects – Willow Glen Recreation area



The Public Works crew finished the electric project for the pavilion and also painted the lines in the parking lot.





**Ontelaunee Township**  
35 Ontelaunee Drive,  
Reading, PA 19605

PRSRRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Local  
Postal Customer

## **BERKS COUNTY MEDICATION DROP BOX PROGRAM**

Free disposal of unused, unwanted or expired medications.

**Accepted:** prescription and over the counter medications, including pet medications, ointments, inhalers, powder or patch form medication.

**NOT accepted:** any loose pills not in standard container or bag, syringes, thermometers, bandages, sunblock, lipstick, deodorant or skin creams.

List of locations where these items can be dropped off in our area

- Bern Twp. Police Department - 1069 Old Bernville Road, Bern Twp.
- Berks County Detectives - Berks County AG Center, 1238 Welfare Road, Leesport
- Fleetwood Police Department - 110 West Arch Street, Fleetwood
- Muhlenberg Twp. Police Department - 5401 Leesport Avenue, Muhlenberg

See other locations at the link below

<https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/da/programs/prescription-drop-box>